

E-Memorandum

To: Chief Judges
cc Court Administrators

From: John D. Ferry, Jr.

Date: March 29, 2001

Re: Supreme Court Administrative Order 2001-1
Security Policy for Court Facilities

Attached is Supreme Court Administrative Order 2001-1: Security Policy for Court Facilities which was entered on March 27, 2001. The order provides that weapons are not permitted in any courtroom, office, or other space used for official court business or by judicial employees. Public comments on the order will be invited and it will be considered at the Supreme Court's June 14, 2001, public hearing.

The order calls for each court to submit a written weapons policy to the State Court Administrative Office. To assist courts in developing such a policy, we have attached a model administrative order and a notice that can be used.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Dan Voss (517/373-7498 or vossd@jud.state.mi.us) or Bill Bartels (517/373-5975 or bartelsb@jud.state.mi.us).

March 27, 2001

Administrative Order 2001-1

Security Policies for
Court Facilities

It appearing that the orderly administration of justice would be best served by prompt action, the following order is given immediate effect. The Court invites public comment regarding the merits of the order. Comments may be submitted in writing or electronically to the Supreme Court Clerk by *June 1, 2001*. P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, MI 48909, or MSC_clerk@jud.state.mi.us. When submitting a comment, please refer to File No. **01-15**.

This matter will be considered by the Court at a public hearing to be held June 14, 2001, in Kalamazoo. Persons interested in addressing this issue at the hearing should notify the Clerk by *June 12, 2001*. Further information about the hearing will be posted on the Court's website, www.supremecourt.state.mi.us. When requesting time to speak at the hearing, please refer to File No. **01-15**.

The issue of courthouse safety is important not only to the judicial employees of this state, but also to all those who are summoned to Michigan courtrooms or who visit for professional or personal reasons. Accordingly, the Supreme Court today issues the following declaration regarding the presence of weapons in court facilities.

It is ordered that weapons are not permitted in any courtroom, office, or other space used for official court business or by judicial employees unless the chief judge or other person designated by the chief judge has given prior approval consistent with the court's written policy.

Each court is directed to submit a written policy conforming with this order to the State Court Administrator for approval, as soon as is practicable. In developing a policy, courts are encouraged to collaborate with other entities in shared facilities and, where appropriate, to work with local funding units. Such a policy may be part of a general security program or it may be a separate plan.